

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~making~~ marking a laboratory item having an outside surface and ~~of the type made from a material selected from the group consisting of glass and plastic~~ comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting an area of the outside ~~item~~ glass surface;
- (b) applying a layer of a ceramic paint coating material having a coefficient of thermal expansion substantially the same as the coefficient of thermal expansion of the material comprising the item ~~material~~ onto the area; and
- (c) imprinting indicia onto selected portions of the ceramic coating with a laser emitting device to permanently ~~etch a~~ provide a visible, machine readable code comprised of said indicia in said coating by effecting a visible color change to the portions of the coating comprising the indicia only.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1 wherein the indicia are selected from the group consisting of bar code, numeric code, ~~and~~ alphabetic code, and combinations thereof.

3. (Original) The process of Claim 1 wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of lead ceramic paint and nonlead ceramic paint.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 ~~including~~ wherein the step of applying a layer of paint coating material includes firing of the ceramic coating material onto the glass selected area.

5. (Original) A product by the process of Claims 1, 2, 3 or 4.

6. (New) The process of claim 1 wherein the paint coating is a white ceramic non-lead paint.